

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: OPPOSITION COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: MADRID 6814; 7342

1. THE OPPOSITION "COORDINATING COMMITTEE," WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN PRINCIPLE AT THE SEPT 4 OPPOSITION "SUMMIT" IN MADRID (REFTELS) AND IS LARGELY AN OUTGROWTH OF THE PLATAJUNTA'S EFFORTS TO GIVE ITS ACTIVITIES A REGIONAL CAST, HELD ITS FIRST MEETING SEPT 25 IN VALENCIA. AT THE MEETING, PLATAJUNTA REPRESENTATIVES SIMON SANCHEZ MONTERO (PCE AND ANTONIO GARCIA TREVIJANO ("INDEPENDENT") JOINED WITH TWO MEMBERS EACH OF THE ASAMBLEA DE CATALUNYA, TABOA DEMOCRATICA GALEGA, TAULA VALENCIANA, CONSELL

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DE LES ILLES (BALEARICS), AND COORDINADORA DE FUERZAS

DEMOCRATICAS DE CANARIAS.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE 12 PARTICIPANTS DISCUSSED FOR TEN HOURS THE FORMULATION OF A UNIFIED OPPOSITION POLITICAL PROGRAM. AT THE CLOSE OF THEIR LENGTHY SESSION, THE PARTICIPANTS REPORTEDLY "APPROVED AND ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM WHICH OPENS A CONSTITUENT PERIOD BASED ON DEMOCRATIC AND TRADE UNION FREEDOMS, TOTAL AMNESTY, AND THE RIGHTS OF THE REGIONS AND NATIONALITIES." THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS MUST NOW RETURN TO THEIR INDIVIDUAL COALITIONS TO DISCUSS THIS "PROGRAM;" NO FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITS CONTENTS REPORTEDLY WILL BE FORTHCOMING BEFORE SATURDAY.

3. COMMENT: THE SO-CALLED COORDINATING COMMITTEE IS NOT A DECISION-MAKING BODY. AS EXPLAINED TO US BY JAIME CORTEZO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE LEFT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ID, THE COMMITTEE BASICALLY IS A STUDY GROUP WHOSE PRINCIPAL FUNCTION IS THE PREPARATION OF AN AGENDA FOR THE NEXT OPPOSITION "SUMMIT." INFORMATION ON THE SO-CALLED PROGRAM DOES NOT GO BEYOND THAT REPORTED IN PARA 2, BUT IT IS CERTAIN TO BEGIN TO LEAK OUT DURING THE WEEK AS THE INDIVIDUAL COALITIONS MULL IT OVER. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE COMMITTEE IS EVEN LESS POLITICALLY REPRESENTATIVE THAN THE LEFT-LEANING COALITIONS IN WHOSE NAME IT MET. THE POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS OF TEN OF THE TWELVE PARTICIPANTS WERE REPORTED BY "EL PAIS" TO BE: MAOIST (TWO); PCE (THREE); "INDEPENDENTS" (THREE); AND SOCIALISTS (TWO). OF THE TWO SOCIALISTS, ONE WAS A PSOE MAN, BUT THE OTHER WAS A MEMBER OF JOAN RAVENTOS' CONVERGENCIA SOCIALISTA DE CATALUNYA, WHICH IS VERY CLOSE TO THE CATALAN COMMUNISTS. CONSEQUENTLY, THE COMMITTEE APPEARS TO BE VERY MUCH A COMMUNIST-FAR LEFT OPERATION, REPRESENTATIVE OF ONLY AN ATTENUATED SEGMENT OF EVEN THE LEFT OPPOSITION.

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